

SUBSTITUTE FOR ENGLISH IVY.

In the north English ivy is not reliably hardy. In the latitude of New York it does fairly well, particularly in New Jersey from Newark south. North of this latitude it either kills back badly or entirely.

A good substitute for English ivy in northern climates is bitter sweet, *Celastrus scandens*. It is a hardy, native plant of rapid growth and does well in sun or shade. The foliage is light green. During June yellow flowers appear, which are followed in the autumn with bright orange fruit, which remains on the plant nearly all winter.

It's all in knowing how. Milking by machine does not harm the herd nor reduce the milk flow, experiments show. But the machines want to be properly handled and cleaned.

The variegated alfalfa yield much better than the common varieties in New York State.

DREER'S 1920 GARDEN BOOK

Whatever is worth growing—either in vegetables or flowers—you will find listed in Dreer's Garden Book for 1920—all the standard, tested varieties as well as the season's best novelties. Full instructions as to what to plant, when to plant, how to plant, are included, making it an invaluable guide-book for the amateur or professional gardener.

Contains 224 pages; and 6 color plates.

Mailed free to you if you mention this publication.

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That is the statement of William C. Reynolds, Moore Gregory & Son, who have been growing "Honest Seeds" for 40-odd years. "Honesty" is the first of the qualities of a seed. It means truth-telling. It means that the seed will grow into a plant that is true to its name. It means that the seed will grow into a plant that is true to its name. It means that the seed will grow into a plant that is true to its name.

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The most wonderful bean in the world. S. A. VIRDIN, Delaware, N.Y.

PLANTS ALONG WALLS.

Soils near walls are usually too dry in summer and too poor.

Before planting take out the soil to a depth and width of three feet, adding manure, and leaf mold if it is to be had. After mixing, return the soil and allow it to settle. Climbers and other plants may then be grown there successfully. Water will be required daily during hot weather.

If the sprayer is turned up and put in shape now it will be ready for operation when it is wanted early in the spring.

COMING FLOWER SHOW.

\$15,000 in Prizes for Best Individual Specimens and Collections.

Prizes amounting to \$15,000 in cash and trophies are offered for the International Flower Show under the auspices of the Horticultural Society of New York and New York Florists Club to be staged in Grand Central Palace March 15 to 21. This first post-war floral exhibition will surpass in magnitude and beauty all former efforts, and is to reveal many novelties in strange and rare specimens of horticulture which were not available for exhibition purposes during the war. These include both foreign and domestic exhibits. Not only will there be some \$60,000 worth of space covered with beautiful plants and blooms of 25,000 varieties or more, but all sorts of new and up to date ideas in gardening accessories, window boxes, flowers and devices for the home, and all the thousand and one little hints that bring flowers nearer to us are to be displayed. The exposition on two floors of the Palace is bound to be of interest to every one possessing a garden, large or small, or who is at all interested in flowers.

Intense interest centres in this season's competition for private growers, as well as the professional class, and entries are coming in from all parts of the country. Many flower enthusiasts who have no connection with the trade are offering handsome trophies for amateurs, or the gardeners employed by them, that an entry list beyond all precedent already is assured.

Among the classes for which several hundred prizes are offered are for various plants in flower, palms and foliage plants, ferns, bulbous plants, orchids, roses (potted and cut), carnations, sweet peas, violets, rhododendrons, hyacinths, etc.

A competition of especial interest is that for table decoration for private growers, table to be set for eight and decoration to consist of sweet peas and foliage. The class for hotels will have all of the leading hoteliers entered, as was the case during the last few years.

Rock gardens and rose gardens will be a feature on the main floor this year, thousands of dollars being expended by growers to install these in the Palace to present the same appearance that they would on a fine estate. This sort of garden, long in vogue in England, recently has met with wide favor in America, and landscape gardeners are able to secure remarkably beautiful effects with these on large country seats, while owners of small gardens can arrange and plant in the crevices and among rock piles their plants, some varieties of which bloom almost throughout the year.

Large rock gardens will be entered in the competition by F. R. Pierson, A. N. Pierson and Bobbink & Atkins. There will be half a dozen large rose gardens, which competition is to be a feature, and each of these gardens will cover 400 square feet of floor space, a prize of \$500 in gold being offered for the best.

Aside from the flowers themselves the Allied Loyalty League tea garden, which takes the place of the Red Cross tea garden of former seasons, will be a feature. It is to be several times as large as last year, and will be a great attraction. It will enjoy the patronage of society.

The general committee in charge of the tea garden consists of: Miss F. Cottrell, committee on food supplies; Mrs. J. H. Gregory, tea garden committee; Mrs. P. H. Post, committee on decoration; Mr. Henry Sedgwick, committee on entertainment; Mrs. George Barton French, finance committee; Mrs. Charles B. Williams, exhibition committee; Miss F. Cottrell, flower booth committee; Mrs. J. Clark Curtin, publicity committee; Mrs. J. H. Sears, Mrs. J. H. Gregory & Son.

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To Readers of Farm and Garden Department

Because of the serious shortage in newspaper THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD is compelled to discontinue its Farm and Garden Department.

All newspapers the country over are working together to save paper in the interest of the general newspaper field. Many newspapers have already been forced to go out of business because of inability to secure paper on which to print their editions. Many other newspapers are so badly off for paper that they appear in half or quarter size. THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD is buying paper in Sweden and importing it to help out in its paper requirements.

George Wickham, Miss Gerry, Miss May Palmer and Mrs. A. L. Laddenburg.

Hon. James M. Beck, president of the Allied Loyalty League; Mrs. Charles H. Dutton, vice president; Mrs. John M. Maguire, secretary; Mr. Harris A. Dunn, treasurer; Miss Virginia Furman, assistant treasurer.

A MAMMOTH BOXWOOD.

The largest single plant of boxwood in the world has been growing upward of 150 years in an old Quaker garden near Trenton, N. J., and was removed last autumn to become part of the celebrated collection of Capt. Francis R. Mayer.

This rare plant is in such a remarkable state of preservation is the good care of the old Quaker lady who has lived in the house where the boxwood was located for eighty-nine years and who has guarded it from attack by man and beast for almost a century.

An interesting story is told of this famous boxwood. It was during the days of the Revolutionary War when Washington with his remnant of an army made that celebrated dash upon Trenton, surprising the Hessians at their Christmas revels. That the British army was not warned of the attack was owing to the fact that their spy was found by an American patrol hiding in this boxwood, then only a tenth of the size it has attained at the present time.

A small army of men was required to dig up the plant carefully, leaving several tons of Jersey earth about its roots, and it was loaded upon a single flat car and transported by the Lewis & Valentine Company to the spot where it is now growing.

Clarkia elegans does not seem to be so popular as it is good for mixed borders and beds. The plants are about two feet in height, bearing spikes of white, salmon, rose, orange, pink and scarlet flowers all summer. Good for cut flowers.

Double charlins are now to be had in various colors.

Now the seeds early where the plants are to remain.

New maple floors in kitchen will not absorb grease or show grease spots if saturated with linseed oil for several hours before they are used. Then wipe off all surplus oil.

HENS' FEED AFFECTS FLAVOR AND COLOR OF EGG YOLKS

In extreme cases the flavor and color of the feed have been imparted to the eggs. Onions have been fed in such quantities as to bring about this effect. Those who desire to produce a first class article should not give feeds of high and objectionable flavor to their flocks.

In no case should tainted feed be allowed to enter the ration. Feed also has an influence on the color of the yolk. Corn fed exclusively will give a deep yellow or highly colored yolk, while wheat fed alone will produce a much lighter yolk. A fairly high colored yolk is usually fed and can usually be obtained by feeding a moderate amount of corn. Plenty of green feed also enriches the color of the yolk.

BIG SWEET POTATOES.

By B. YORKSTONE HOGG.

Potatoes, says Florida raises them, both Irish and sweet potatoes, after the fashion of each year, and then room for millions more, on the wild lands of the State of Florida.

Irish or white potatoes do not as a rule grow as large as the Northern growers, and as a rule they are not good keepers, which is due to the fact that our soil and climate is much milder, and therefore the Irish potato, although it grows well in Florida, does not keep as well as its rival from the North.

Millions of dollars are made every year by the potato growers who grow them on the muck lands of the Everglades and lower part of Florida, while the rest of the country is covered with a mantle of snow and ice.

These potatoes come in the Northern markets from Christmas to Easter, and are greedily bought up by the commission houses of New York, Boston, Chicago, Montreal, Philadelphia and any other large city that can get a chance to do so.

Some of the soil in the Everglades and other portions of South Florida is more than a foot deep, nothing but humus or decayed vegetable mould, so it is not to be wondered that things grow on such land like the proverbial guard, and a crop of sweet potatoes on some of the Florida lands can be harvested every two months.

It seldom freezes south of Fort Pierce, on the east coast, and Tampa on the west coast, and in this country sweet potatoes have been known to grow to sizes unknown and unbelievable in the North; several of them have been known to tip the scales at fifty pounds each, and others at twenty, thirty and forty pounds.

When a real estate merchant has such potatoes grown he generally buys up the supply and pays \$5 the pound, for the fifty pounds or \$125 for a single potato, but as the fifty pounds are rare it is not always he can find one that size, so he seeks the forty, thirty and twenty pound ones, and generally pays four, three and two dollars per pound for these. If he cannot obtain these he will offer 50 cents per pound for a ten pounder, and \$1.50 for a fifteen pounder. Smaller potatoes he does not want for his business, but the stores will buy them for eating purposes.

These extra big potatoes are often rotten at the core, and are not edible, but are grown that size by letting the

potato grow and grow, without digging it for a couple of years, and as the vines live the whole year around, it is readily seen that they will keep piling up potatoes, in the earth, and when the potatoes are the proper size the thirty farmer takes them down to the real estate agent, and he in turn displays them in his windows, and those potatoes grow even after being dug, and then they are a sight to be remembered, as often they put out big vines, which are pretty and then bloom, right in the window without a particle of earth, producing pretty purple blossoms.

Tourists from the North are attracted by this sight and stand and gaze, then ask questions, and often are invited to see the very spot wherefrom these giants of potato kingdom start.

The picture is of a sweet potato

grown at Fort Pierce, Fla., by the author. It grew without any fertilizer and very little care; an ordinary sized one was photographed beside it, the big one not able to get in a large water bucket.

FIX UP THE HENHOUSE.

Winter is the season when the poultry keeper has most time at his disposal to fix up his henhouse. Many conveniences for the henhouse require only a little lumber and time for construction.

If new nests, feed troughs, drinking fountains, or dust boxes in the biddies' domicile are needed, now is the time to make them.

Perhaps the roosts need replacing. A satisfactory perch can be made by using a 2 by 3 inch scantling set edge.

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TURNER BROS., BLADEN, NEB.

FRESH DUG, Frostproof Cabbage Plants; shipped direct to you from our Southern grower station by express, prepaid; 1,000 plants for \$1.98; 5,000 plants for \$9.50; ready now. S. A. VIRDIN, Delaware, N.Y.

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Rambler Roses, choice of colors; Hydrangea Bush, Hydrangea Snowball, Spiraea, Barberry, Pine, Red and Jack; Norway Spruce, Arborvitae. Plants 1-2 ft. or more, 25c. each. Shrubs, 2-3 ft., 50c. Color. BLUE Spruces, 2-10 ft., \$5.00 each. Prepaid. Order Now. Catalog Free.

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Prairie State Sand Tray Incubators Four Sizes, \$35.00 to \$85.00

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wise with the upper edge slightly rounded.

Allow 7 to 10 inches of perch for each fowl; that is, a perch 15 feet long would furnish room enough for 30 fowls. A smooth platform should be placed under the perches to catch the droppings. The perches should be from 5 to 10 inches above egg platform so as to allow the droppings to be removed without removing the perches. It is usually desirable to have the platform some distance from the floor, from 3 to 25 feet, in order that all the floor space may be available.

NO EGGS! MAYBE YOUR BIRDS ARE TOO OLD.

There are people who have the right variety of fowls, who house and feed them properly, and yet who cannot obtain eggs in the winter because their fowls are too old. It seldom pays to keep hens for laying after they are two and a half years old; not that they will not give a profit, but that younger fowls will give a greater profit. A great many poultrymen who make a specialty of winter egg production keep nothing but pullets, disposing of the one-year-old hens before it is time to put them in winter quarters. The champion of the girls' poultry clubs of Mississippi keeps nothing but pullets.

Early hatched pullets, if properly grown, ought to begin laying in October or early in November and continue to lay through the winter. Yearling hens seldom begin laying much before January 1 and older hens not until later. It is the November and December eggs that bring the high prices. The laying breeds should begin laying when about from five to six months old, general purpose breeds at six to seven months, and the meat breeds at eight to nine months.

IT IS EARLY HATCHED BIRD THAT GETS THE PRICE.

Chickens can be hatched at any time of the year, but it is the chickens hatched early in the spring that give the best results.

Early hatched chicks, as a rule, are the strongest and most vigorous in the flock because they are produced from eggs laid while the hens are in their best breeding condition. After a long period of laying the hens lose something of their vitality and their capacity to transmit vigor to their offspring.

So late hatched chicks get more from a given quantity of food than others. Weak and undersized birds often consume as much feed as the larger and better developed ones, but make no perceptible growth.

The early chicks develop to a stage where they can withstand extreme heat and an attack by the parasites which are more numerous and troublesome in hot weather. The severe heat is apt to check the growth of the late chicks and in their weakened condition they easily become a prey to lice and mites. When the cold, wet weather comes in the fall they are peculiarly susceptible to it and likely to develop colds, while the vigorous early chicks find the conditions stimulating.

When eggs do not hatch well early in the season there is time to find the reason for the poor hatching and to cure it before the season is too far advanced.

For vegetable growers and lovers of flowers, for 71 years the leading authority on Vegetable, Farm and Flower seeds, has been the "Vegetable, Farm and Flower" seed catalog, which is published every year. It is the most complete and authoritative seed catalog ever published. It is the most complete and authoritative seed catalog ever published.

Vick's Quality Seeds Grow the Best Crops the Earth Produces

Many hundreds of gardeners have testified to the fact that the seeds sold by Vick's are of superior quality. Let us sell you a few of our seeds. Let us sell you a few of our seeds. Let us sell you a few of our seeds.

With prices for market vegetables rising every day, it is important that you get the best seeds at the lowest price.

JAMES VICK'S SONS, 33 State Street, New York, N. Y. "The Flower City"

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Strawberry, raspberry, blackberry, dewberry, gooseberry, currant, grape, Rhubarb, asparagus, horseradish, cabbage, cauliflower, beet, Brussels sprouts, celery, eggplant, lettuce, leek, onion, parsley, chives, pepper, sweet potato and tomato. Also, various shrubs, pines, pampas and native plants for spring and summer planting; catalogue free. HARRY A. SQUIRES, Good Ground, N. Y.

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Twelve Weeks' Course (April 7th-June 24th) in FLORICULTURE, VEGETABLE GARDENING, FRUIT GROWING, POULTRY, BEES and allied subjects.

SUMMER COURSE AUG. 2nd-AUG. 20th Write for Circular. SCHOOL OF HORTICULTURE, Ambler, Pa. 18 Miles from Philadelphia. Miss Elisabeth Leighton, Law, Director.

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Rambler Roses, choice of colors; Hydrangea Bush, Hydrangea Snowball, Spiraea, Barberry, Pine, Red and Jack; Norway Spruce, Arborvitae. Plants 1-2 ft. or more, 25c. each. Shrubs, 2-3 ft., 50c. Color. BLUE Spruces, 2-10 ft., \$5.00 each. Prepaid. Order Now. Catalog Free.

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When late hatching is not successful the crop of poultry is cut short and egg production falls.

Early hatched cockerels are ready for the market when prices are highest. Early hatched pullets mature before cold weather and lay when prices of eggs are highest. Late hatched chickens are not mature before cold weather sets in, and often will not lay until spring.

DECIDING ON BREED OF FOWL.

A small flock of hens can be kept with profit by many city dwellers who have a back yard. Even as few as eight or ten hens should produce enough, when used economically, for a family of four or five persons throughout the year, except the molting period of the fall and early winter.

Householders usually desire not only eggs for the table and for cooking, but also an occasional chicken to eat. For this reason one of the general purpose breeds, such as the Plymouth Rock, Wyandotte, Rhode Island Red, or Orpington, is preferable to the smaller egg breeds, such as Leghorns. Not only do the mature fowls of these breeds make better table fare than the Leghorns, but the young chickens for the same reason make better fryers and roasters, whereas chickens of the egg breeds are suitable only for the smaller broilers.

The general purpose breeds are also "broody" breeds, the hens making good

mothers, which is a decided advantage when it is desired to hatch and raise chickens, since the hens of the egg breeds seldom go broody and are in any event rather unreliable sitters and mothers. If, however, the production of eggs outweighs the desire for an occasional table fowl, the lighter egg breeds undoubtedly will be found better, because they lay as many eggs and do so on less feed, with the result that they produce the eggs more cheaply. It is by all means advisable to keep some pure breed or variety. Where this is done, saved as a profitable figure can often be made of breeding stock intended for market, or of eggs for hatching.

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Runs easier and does better work than any other garden cultivator upon the market. Carries its own weight, weighs less than a lawn mower. Use it two weeks, if not satisfied, we will refund your money.

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